

MEMORANDUM **Washington, DC** - Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX-20) and Congressman Ciro Rodriguez (TX-23) met with local officials this afternoon to announce the decision by the United States Air Force to select Lackland Air Force Base as the site for its new cyber security command unit. Based on selection criteria set forth by the Air Force, Lackland was determined to be the best-qualified installation among the six nationwide candidates that were being considered for the base.

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Among the other locations considered: Barksdale AFB, LA; Langley AFB, VA; Offutt AFB, NE; Peterson AFB, CO; and Scott AFB, IL.

“Collective efforts to convince Air Force officials to locate the command at Lackland paid off. San Antonio’s technology work force will soon grow in size with the creation of new work opportunities and give our economy a boost,” **said Congressman Charles Gonzalez (TX-20)**. “San Antonio is ready to welcome the new cyber command to “Military City USA”.”

“The Air Force cyber command center will ensure that San Antonio is on the cutting edge of responding to 21st century national security challenges,” **added Congressman Ciro Rodriguez (TX-23)**. “Further, the command will deliver tangible benefits to the private sector including job creation and business growth for the San Antonio area. The new command center should also highlight outstanding advanced cyber security related research that the University of Texas at San Antonio has been conducting for many years. This agreement is a win-win situation for the Air Force and the San Antonio community.”

The 24th Air Force, or the branch’s cyber warfare organization, will employ hundreds of people, including the commander’s staff and an around-the-clock cyber operations center. Cyber operations will primarily focus on defending Air Force networks against attack and preventing network disruptions. It will also conduct some offensive operations to assess adversaries’ cyber capabilities.

“Recognizing our community’s vast military attributes this selection is great news and will bring new jobs to the area while enhancing our current missions,” **continued Gonzalez.** “As an existing home to cyber offensive and defensive operations, I am confident we will meet the needs of the new command and provide the necessary infrastructure for a successful transition into our community.”